

Appl. No. 10/776,027
Amdt. dated Nov. 16, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-20 (canceled).

Claim 21 (new): A portable optical indicia reader, comprising:

a housing;

an array of photosensor elements, located within said housing;

a focusing system, positioned in said housing, to focus an image of an area of information located externally of said housing onto said array of photosensor elements;
and

a field of view marking system, positioned within said housing, to project a light-energy marker structure away from said housing and onto a surface containing an area of information to designate an imaging area that is substantially equivalent to said focusing system's field of view.

Claim 22 (new): The portable optical indicia reader of claim 21, wherein said field of view marking system projects a light-energy marker structure comprising a plurality of field of view indicators.

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Claim 23 (new): The portable optical indicia reader of claim 21, wherein said field of view marking system projects a light-energy marker structure comprising a plurality of field of view indicators, at least one field of view indicator being a linear segment.

Claim 24 (new): The portable optical indicia reader of claim 21, wherein said field of view marking system projects a light-energy marker structure that brackets the focusing system's field of view on a surface containing an area of information to be read.

Claim 25 (new): The portable optical indicia reader of claim 21, wherein said field of view marking system comprises a light-energy generating component, light energy generated by said light-energy generating component being used to create a light-energy marker structure.

Claim 26 (new): The portable optical indicia reader of claim 21, wherein said field of view marking system comprises an optics component, said optics component directing a light-energy marker structure substantially along said focusing system's field of view's boundary.

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Claim 27 (new): The portable optical indicia reader of claim 21, said field of view marking system comprising:

a light-energy generating component, light-energy generated by said light-energy generating component being used to create a light-energy marker structure; and

an optics component, said optics component directing light-energy generated by said light-energy generating component substantially along said focusing system's field of view's boundary.

Claim 28 (new): The portable optical indicia reader of claim 25, further comprising a control component, said control component causing said field of view marking system to not project a light-energy marker structure during an attempt to capture an optical indicia with the optical indicia reader.

Claim 29 (new): The portable optical indicia reader of claim 25, further comprising a filtering component, said filtering component removing a reflected light-energy marker structure from a received image during an attempt to image optical indicia with the optical indicia reader.

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Claim 30 (new): An optical indicia imager, comprising:

means for housing components of the optical indicia imager;

means for sensing received light energy; located within said means for housing;

means for focusing, positioned within said means for housing, to focus an image of an area of information located externally of said means for housing onto said means for sensing; and

means for designating a field of view's boundary, positioned within said means for housing, to designate an area that is substantially equivalent to said means for focusing's field of view.

Claim 31 (new): The optical indicia imager of claim 30, wherein said means for designating a field of view's boundary projects a light-energy marker structure comprising a plurality of field of view indicators.

Claim 32 (new): The optical indicia imager of claim 30, wherein said means for designating a field of view's boundary projects a light-energy marker structure indicating corner locations of said means for focusing's field of view on a surface containing an area of information to be imaged.

Claim 33 (new): The optical indicia imager of claim 30, wherein said means for designating a field of view's boundary projects a light-energy marker structure comprising a plurality of field of view indicators, at least one field of view indicator being a line.

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Claim 34 (new): The optical indicia imager of claim 30, wherein said means for designating a field of view's boundary projects a light-energy marker structure that brackets said means for focusing's field of view on a surface containing an area of information to be imaged.

Claim 35 (new): The optical indicia imager of claim 30, wherein said means for designating a field of view's boundary comprises means for generating light energy, light energy generated by said means for generating light energy being used to create a light-energy marker structure.

Claim 36 (new): The optical indicia imager of claim 30, wherein said means for designating a field of view's boundary comprises a means for directing light energy, said means for directing light energy directing a light-energy marker structure substantially along said means for focusing's field of view's boundary.

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Claim 37 (new): The optical indicia imager of claim 30, said means for designating a field of view's boundary comprising:

means for generating light energy, light-energy generated by said means for generating light energy being used to create a light-energy marker structure;
and

means for directing light energy, said means for directing light energy directing light-energy generated by said means for generating light energy substantially along said means for focusing's field of view's boundary.

Claim 38 (new): The optical indicia imager of claim 35, further comprising means for controlling, said means for controlling causing said means for designating a field of view's boundary to not project a light-energy marker structure during an attempt to capture an optical indicia with the optical indicia imager.

Claim 39 (new): The optical indicia imager of claim 35, further comprising means for filtering, said means for filtering removing a reflected light-energy marker structure from a received image during an attempt to image optical indicia with the optical indicia imager.

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Claim 40 (new): A method for imaging optical indicia, comprising the steps of:

aiming an optical indicia imager toward a surface containing indicia to be imaged;
projecting a field of view marking structure away from the imager and
substantially along the periphery of the imager's field of view to delineate an imaging
area, the projected field of view marking structure designating the imager's field of
view's boundary on the surface containing the indicia to be read; and
activating the imager to capture an image of the imager's field of view.

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General Authorization Under 37 CFR 1.136(a)(3)

The Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to treat this or any future response requiring a petition for an extension of time, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time.

In addition, the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees deemed due under 37 CFR 1.17 to Deposit Account 19-2260.

Further, if it is determined that any other fees are due in this application, or if it is determined that an overpayment has been made, the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account 19-2260 as appropriate.